

Storm Water Management

The federal Clean Water Act requires cities to "manage" storm water and reduce pollution in storm water runoff into waters of the United States.

The City of Middleton's storm water management program started in 2009. Storm drains collect rain, melted snow and the water used to water lawns. The water that flows into storm drains is eventually discharged into streams. The City's NPDES storm water permit requires that the water discharged into the streams meet federal discharge requirements for pollutants. The City is currently sampling storm water discharge in Willow Creek to better understand the quality of storm water in the system and identify pollutants of concern.

As required by permit, City storm drains have been marked to identify their location and alert people that anything put into the drain directly flows to the streams and rivers in Idaho. If not corrected, high levels of pollutants in storm water (such as detergents, oils and chemicals) may require treatment prior to discharge into the streams which will be costly for residents.

Storm Water Management is a Community Effort

Everyone can make small changes that help keep pollution out of storm water. A few easy changes to start with are:

- Sweep your driveway and keep debris out of storm drains.
- Remove the leaves, pine needles and garbage from your gutters.
- Never pour anything down storm drains.
- If you wash your car at home, wash the car on an unpaved surface (lawn) so the dirty water penetrates the ground and doesn't flow into the gutter, then the storm drain, and eventually into streams.
- During the summer months when lawns are watered, the excess water flows over sidewalks and into the gutters. Use fertilizers without phosphorous on lawns and use low phosphorous fertilizers on other vegetation; follow the instructions carefully on the packaging.
- Pick up and dispose of animal waste.
- Fix car leaks as soon as possible and always recycle motor oil.
- During the winter months, do not shovel snow into the storm drain system.
- Alert the City when you see things that are not supposed to be in the storm drains.

Storm Water Related Documents

[2012 Storm Water Annual Report](#)